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STATINTL

- 1 -

IDEOLOGICAL WEAKNESSES:

There is considerably less radio discussion of ideological failings than in previous months, and the criticism of that aspect of Soviet life is less virulent. A number of items dealing with matters of ideology in the period under review appeared in the press but have not been broadcast. Discussing education in the Rostov Oblast universities and technical colleges, MOLOT (28 May) says that it would be "incorrect and harmful" not to see the grave shortcomings in the work of a number of higher educational institutions.

In the Novecherkassk Polytechnical Institute, the Rostov Institute of Railroad Engineers, and several other institutions the teaching of specialized subjects is said to be "divorced from the realities of life." This favorite Soviet expression applies primarily to Marxist dialectics. Since every academic subject, from nuclear fission to ancient Greek literature, must be taught against the background of Marxism-Leninism, the failure to adapt that theory to every type of university instruction is variously referred to as "political illiteracy", "harmful carelessness" or worse. To train large numbers of specialists in various fields, the editorial concludes, is not enough: It is the duty of the higher institutions of learning "to give the Fatherland new cadres of specialists faithful to the task of Lenin and Stalin." That faith, it is implied, can be acquired only through a profound study of the theory of Lenin and Stalin which is "inseparable" (nerazdelima) from any scientific or technical endeavor.

The ideological application to the teaching of social sciences is the subject of discussion in a Grigoryan article carried by PRAVDA on 28 May (not broadcast). The guiding principle in the teaching of social sciences, the author says, is to train "Leninists," and that term implies considerably more than a narrow specialization in any branch of science or technology. A "Leninist", as defined by Grigoryan, is a politico-social activist familiar with the laws of societal development and capable of participating in the political leadership of the country. Talmudism and "uncritical attitude" (nachetnichestvo), says the article, still characterize the work of many Armenian universities and institutes. Thus in the Republic's institutes of agriculture, pedagogy and physical culture, the ideological end of the work is said to have been relegated to a secondary place:

The basic contrast between bourgeois and proletarian ideology and the superiority of the Soviet Socialist Regime over that of capitalism do not get satisfactory treatment.

Russian version:

Neudovletvoritelno raskryvayetsya korennaya protivopolozhnost burzhuaizmy i proletarskoy ideologii, preimushchestva sovetskogo sotsialisticheskogo stroya pered kapitalisticheskim.

KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA (29 May) refers in general terms to the favorable effect on artistic and literary activities as well as on scientific research in the Republic produced by the "intensification of attention" (boleynapriazhennoye vnimanie) to the ideological education of the Communists and non-partisans alike. The only shortcoming in that work, according to the paper, is that it is "still lagging behind the growing demands", in other words, unsatisfactory. Mass ideological and political work should be widely developed "in the homes of the people" so that the "remnants of capitalism" in their minds may be eradicated for all time. There is no further amplification of this point, however.

The Kazakh Party organizations are responsible for the wrong impression of past and present Kazakh life produced by the exhibits in a number of the Republic's museums, according to a dispatch by Zemtsov (29 May). Many museum officials, he says, have "glossed over" (proshli mimo) the fact that the union of the Kazakh people with the Russians was motivated by their desire to save their native land from foreign invaders. All one gathers from viewing the various museum exhibits, says the dispatch, is that Kazakhstan was annexed to Russia by an imperial decree, and that is a "crude falsification" (grubaya falsifikatsiya) of an historical event:

...concealed from the museum visitors is the historical fact that the Kazakh people saw in their union with Russia the salvation of their native land from foreign invaders and a method of overcoming their backwardness.

Russian version:

...ot posetiteley muzeya skryt tot istoricheskiy fakt, chto kazakhskiy narod v prisoyedinenii k Rossii spravedlivo videl spasenie svoey rodiny ot chuzhemykh zakhvatchikov, videl put k preodoleniu svoey otstalosti.

Another serious aberration from the prevailing ideological line is the failure to "explain" that the struggle of the Kazakh people against their exploiters had merged (slilas) with the revolutionary fight of the Russian working class against the bourgeois-landlord regime for a Socialist revolution. Nor is the present life and development of the Kazakhstan Republic properly reflected in the museum exhibits. Most of them are said to be dealing with the past which, as has already been pointed out, is frequently distorted beyond recognition. Thus in the Kokchetav regional museum, the pre-revolutionary life of Kazakhstan is presented in the shape of luxurious Beys' tents and their women's fancy clothes, but there is not a single exhibit showing the impoverished life of the Kazakh working class. One looks in vain (tshchetno iskat) for exhibits portraying the present life and prosperity of the Republic, says Zemtsov in conclusion. Such is the case, for example, in the Guryev, Kokchetav, and Dzhambul regional museums: "Such museums in effect deprive the visitors of the possibility of juxtaposing the joyful present with the damned past" (Takoy muzey po sushchestvu lishayet posetiteley vozmozhnosti sopostavit radostnoye nastoyashcheye a proklyatym proshlym).

The Ukraine's ideological department is again the object of Moscow's attention. A long unsigned PRAVDA article under a Kiev dateline (2 June, not broadcast) criticizes the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, the Republic's Committee for Arts, and the teaching of social sciences in the universities for the painfully slow and

at times disappointing ideological progress. Seventy percent of the deputy directors of the Academy's scientific-research institutions are said to lack ideological and academic training for their jobs. That, it is claimed, goes a long way towards explaining the unsatisfactory research progress achieved in the fields of linguistics, history, philosophy, ethnography and others. The work of the Ukrainian Committee for Arts is "still characterized by rude mistakes and bourgeois-nationalist distortions" despite the strong warning against such deviations issued by the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party several months ago. Referring to the low ideological level of university instruction, particularly in social sciences, the article points out that among the Republic's 215 heads of Social Science Departments there is only one Professor and one Doctor of Sciences, while none of the heads of the Marxism-Leninism Departments has any academic degree at all. The article is particularly critical of the ideological deterioration (ideologicheskoye razlozhenie) that has been noted in the matter of training propaganda personnel. This "most important business" (vazhneysheye delo) is said to have been criminally neglected by the Central Committee's Department of Agitation and Propaganda. In 1946, 35% of the Propaganda Department managers at the rayon and city Party Committees were university graduates, but the present number of degree-holders is only 21%.

Socialist competition between Russian and Ukrainian collective farms designed to "strengthen the friendship" (krepit druzhbu) between the two nations has been going on for several years although, for some reason or other, this aspect of friendly relations has never been given much publicity. Referring to the subject on 5 June, a special Ukrainian-language broadcast from Poltava indicates that Russo-Ukrainian agricultural competition will henceforth be promoted on an increasing scale. As implied in the case of the currently competing "Molotov" (Ukraine) and "Luch" (RSFSR) collective farms, the "elder brother" attitude characterizing the relations between the two Republics also dominates the friendly competition between individual farms. Thus in an interview arranged between the leaders of the mentioned farms, both presumably model kolkhozes, it is emphasized that the Ukrainians are far behind their Russian competitors. For example, the stock of cattle in both kolkhozes is "nearly the same" but the 1951 milk yield per Russian cow was 4,000 liters whereas the Ukrainian cow was able to produce "only half of that." The interview ends with the Russian livestock farm manager advising the Ukrainian Kolkhoz to pay more attention to the selection of breeding stock in order to increase the milk yields, and the Ukrainian responding that "his remark has been accepted as correct."

Crimean History To Be Rewritten: The joint scientific session of the History and Philosophy Departments of the Crimean branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences recently held at Simferopol, is told that the history of Crimea as currently presented is all wrong, according to a broadcast of 4 June. The impending official change of the peninsula's past was keynoted in Academician Grekov's opening speech which referred darkly to the "grave errors" that have crept into the treatment of this subject.

The prevailing belief that the Crimea was the original homeland of the Goths, Khazars, Genoans, Tartars, and Turks stems from "Marr's scholastic, anti-scientific conception in the matter of the Slavs' origin" (skholasticheskaya, anti-nauchnaya kontseptsia Marra v voprosakh etnogeneza slavyan). The Slavs, it is claimed had inhabited the peninsula even before the formation of the Kiev Principality, and their cultural influence has since predominated in the life of the population. The reason for this misinterpretation of the true history of the Crimea, as pointed out at the session, is that it has always been studied and publicized "as something apart" (v otryve) from the history of the Russian State.

Crimean archeologists studying the country's past are said to have "established the presence of Slavs" (ustanovili nalichie slavyan) in that area as far back as the Third Century. The affirmation of bourgeois scientists that a Goth State existed on the peninsula at that time is refuted as a pure "invention" (vymysel).

which unfortunately is reflected also in the works of certain Soviet historians. The latter are sharply criticized for "exaggerating the historial role" (preuvelichenie istoricheskoy roli) of Byzantium, the Goths and the Tartar Khanate in Crimea. Those people, it is revealed, were among the aliens who constituted an insignificant part of the native Slav population and were quickly assimilated. (An apparently irrelevant item on the session's agenda was Zagorodsky's report proving "with concrete documents" /na konkretnykh dokumentakh/ that the Anglo-American-French intervention in Crimea in 1918-1920 was noted for its mass murder and violence).

The decision adopted by the scientific session calls for a thoroughgoing revision of the history of Crimea with a view to eliminating from it "all sorts of distortions, oversimplification, uncritical approach, and Talmudism", as outlined in Stalin's "Marxism and Questions of Linguistics":

In view of the numerous distortions in the history of Crimea, the session found it necessary to revise the historical and reference literature published in the postwar period, particularly the text books; to reconstruct the exhibits of the Crimean museums to conform to the new scientific data in the field of history, and to devote more attention to the training Crimean historians.

Russian version:

V svyazi s mnogochislennymi izvrashcheniyami istorii Kryma sessia priznala neobkhodimym peresmotret istoricheskuyu i spravochnuyu literaturu, izdannuyu v poslevoyenniy period, osobenno uchebniki, pererabotat ekspozitsii krymskikh muzeyev v sootvetstvi s novymi nauchnymi dannymi v oblasti istorii, udelit bolsheye vnimanie voprosam podgotovki kadrov istorikov Kryma.

The ideological heterodoxy of Kirghizi SSR is dealt with in a lengthy Lukin report to PRAVDA from Frunze (8 June, not broadcast), and is also referred to in the paper's editorial of the same date. The plenary session of the Central Committee of the Kirghiz Communist Party, called to review the ideological situation in the Republic, is reported to have revealed a variety of heresies ranging from the "misinterpretation" of Kirghiz history to underestimation of the benefits of Russo-Kirghiz friendship.

As pointed out by Central Committee Secretary Razzakov and others, the Republic's history and literature, as well as the Kirghiz branch of the Academy of Sciences, are in need of a thorough ideological overhauling. It is disclosed, as was the case in the other non-Russian republics, that the "progressive significance" (progressivnoye znachenie) of the "voluntary" union of Kirghizia and Russia does not get sufficient emphasis in Kirghiz history of literature. Nor is the life of Soviet Kirghizia publicized much in contemporary literature--most of it stressing the country's prerevolutionary past instead.

The works of the popular Kirghiz historian Bernshtam are said to be shot through with anti-Marxist and anti-Leninist interpretations. Thus the 1898 Andizhan uprising (against the Russians and other foreigners) is presented as a national-liberation movement whereas it was actually of "a reactionary character." Prevalent among the Kirghiz men of letters is said to be the anti-Leninist "single stream theory" (teoriya edinogo potoka) according to which all the native bards (akyny) and poets of the 19th and early 20th century are portrayed as realists-democrats (realisty-demokraty) regardless of their political views and the class nature (klassovaya sushchnost) of their work. Pan-Islamism, pan-Turkism, cosmopolitan tendencies, and the "underestimation" (nedootsenka) of the role of Russian culture in the cultural development of the Kirghiz people are listed among the grave errors for which the Academy of Sciences and the Writers Union must assume major responsibility.

Some of the Academy's institutes are referred to as "sterile enterprises" (besplodnie uchrezhdenia) which "for years" (godami) have not contributed anything to the national economy or culture. Among them are the Institutes of Linguistics, Literature, and History. The Kirghiz Writers Union, it is charged, is still tolerant of the nationalistic tendencies of some of its members. Tokombayev's novel "The Bloody Years", which is said to contain "elements of pessimism and decadence" (elementy pessimizma i upadochnichestva), was republished by the Writers Union despite the warning of the Republic's Fifth Party Congress several years ago.

True to the pattern of Soviet ideological investigations, the Bureau of the Central Committee itself avows penitence for the un-Bolshevik mess in the Republic's affairs. It is admitted, for example, that the Committee's secretary Orozaliev was "removed from his job" (snyat s raboty) last January for some unnamed ideological heresies. The Bureau also left unchallenged the accusation that for a long period of time it "had kept secret the decision on the exposure of the bourgeois-nationalists" (derzhalo v tainie reshenie o razoblachenii burzhuaiznykh natsionalistov) who were active in the Academy of Sciences.

Gingerly Approach to Religion Reemphasized: In a lecture for the home audience on Socialism and Communism (6 July), Prof. Stepanyan speaks of the many ideological shortcomings to be eliminated in the transitional stage between the two systems. Some of the Soviet scientists, he says, still hold "idealistic and metaphysical views" (idealisticheskie i metafizicheskie vozzrenia) which must be changed. The survivals of capitalism among the population at large are characterized as un-Bolshevik attitude toward Socialist property, nationalist and religious prejudices, petty-bourgeois ethics and an irresponsible attitude toward the family. It is against this "heritage of the past" that the Communist Party is said to be "taking decisive measures" (prinimayet reshitelnye меры). Although the professor makes no reference to the nature of the mentioned measures, his implicit suggestion is that no such tactics are to be employed in the fight against religion. A gingerly approach to the question of religion is, it is implied, the correct line since administrative measures might do more harm than good:

Extreme caution must be exercised in the struggle against religious prejudices. Much harm is being done by those who offend religious sentiments in that struggle... One must avoid offending the religious sentiments of the faithful by crude administrative measures.

Russian version:

Borotsya s religioznymi predrassudkami nado chrez- vychaino ostorozhno. Mnogo vreda prinosyat te, kotorye vnosyat v etu borbu oskorblenie religioznykh chuvstv... Nado storonitsya ot oskorbleniya religioznykh chuvstv veruyushchikh grubymi merami administrativnogo vozdeistviya.

INDUSTRY:

Centralized control (edinonachalie--literally, one-man management) of industry is, according to PRAVDA (27 May), the basic principle of true Bolshevik economic leadership. Such control, however, is unthinkable without constant and rigid supervision over every detail of the job since, according to Stalin, "it is from details that great projects emerge" (iz melochey stroyatsia velikie dela).

Mentioned in this connection are a number of unnamed ministries, trusts, and other industrial organizations, but the Ministry of the Black Metallurgical Industry is singled out for editorial censure. The "low level of management" (nizkiy uroven rukovodstva) of the Bakal ore mines, a vital sector of the Ural metal industry, is said to be due to the "lax supervision" exercised by the Ministry. Those mines, it is asserted, have been working "unrhythmically, with interruptions" (neritmicno, s uryvkami) for a long time, and they are considerably behind schedules now and nothing

is being done about it. Ore-mining at Bakal would not have deteriorated to its present condition if the appropriate officials had remembered that "the interests of the State are above all else" (interesy gosudarstva prevyshe vsego).

The key to production success, says RYDANSKA UKRAINA editorially on 28 May, is the proper utilization of machinery, that is, to its full capacity. Discussing the progress of the South Ukrainian Canal construction, the paper says that the excellent machinery made available for that project is not performing as it should because the men behind the machines are not doing their part of the job. Cited as a typical example is the Zaporozhye Constructions Administration, one of the "leading" building organizations on the South Ukrainian Canal project: "Half of its earth-moving machines were idle in April, and graders and scrapers were poorly utilized." Disparaging reference is made also to the organization leaders' method of checking the Socialist competition of its workers "on the air" instead of by personal supervision. This, the editorial concludes, is "bureaucratic falsehood, not leadership..."

Inadequate utilization of machinery is also the subject of ZARYA's editorial discussion (28 May). The reluctance to make full use of the available machinery, it is claimed, stems from the tendency to "underrate mechanization" on the part of many construction organizations: there is even evidence of "negligence of machines and a scornful attitude toward them." Insufficient utilization of machine capacity has been noted among the oblast blast furnace workers, in ore-mining, metal processing and coke-chemical industries.

KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA (6 June) complains that the qualitative indices of the Republic's industrial production still leave much to be desired. Wasteful expenditure of fuel, electric power, and raw materials as well as "the most unsatisfactory use" of technical equipment are regarded as one of the chief contributing factors. Another and no less important reason for the unspecified industrial failings is said to be the "false objective" of obtaining favorable quantitative results at the expense of quality. The net result of such management, particularly in the fishing industry, is that "production plans fail to be fulfilled."

In a collective letter to Stalin carried on the Home Service on 9 June, Estonian industrial management and labor familiarly pledge themselves to "still greater exertions for the benefit of their Socialist Fatherland" but admit that "considerable shortcomings" still hamper industrial progress: "Some industrial units fail to fulfill the State plan...produce low-quality goods and permit waste."

The "Dead Souls" Racket: Racketeering in Soviet industry, in the Western sense, is never discussed on the radio since that practice is usually associated with industrialists and business men in capitalist countries. References to shady machination, Soviet style, generally appear in feuilletons and other humorous press items. Ryabov tells the story of the head of the Mozhaisk Industrial Combine Tereshkin, now in jail, whose love of money got the better of his industrial talents and loyalty to the State. Learning that a Gypsy caravan (tsyganskiy tabor) had camped near the town, Tereshkin decided to change their nomadic ways of life by assigning part of the combine's production to them including the necessary "operating funds" which amounted to many thousands of rubles. The Gypsies, however, decided to leave, after a short adventure into settled life, "having departed in an unknown direction" (otbyv v neizvestnom napravlenii). When the prosecuting authorities caught up with Tereshkin's activities, it was revealed that the horse-drawn caravan of the untrustworthy gypsies, if there were any gypsies, could not be overtaken by the Combine's officials who pursued them in automobiles--if there was any pursuit. The close resemblance between Tereshkin's Gypsies and Gogol's "Dead Souls", Ryabov points out, is too obvious to be overlooked. It was learned after further investigation that the "black bourse" (chernaya kassa) that operated within the Combine and was known to only a few "select" officials represented more tangible evidence than the Gypsy myth, and had something to do with the disappearance of State funds. This black bourse, incidentally, was the repository of funds acquired from the illegal production and sales of felt boots (valenki), and the distributor of the said funds among the officials making up Tereshkin's retinue.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Education for Children: In a lengthy program for children broadcast from Stavropol on 6 June, Soviet youngsters are told that the ignorance in which American school children are kept is part of a grand design for war on the part of the Truman Government. It is the obvious aim of that Government, the children are told, "to bring up a generation of barbarians" whose reading ability will not extend beyond understanding bomber operation instructions, and their mathematics will be limited to making artillery calculations. An unnamed American teacher is quoted as having stated that "we must become familiar with the thought that a new world war is inevitable." In primary school text books, the letter "A" is said to appear opposite the word "atom", and "B" opposite the word "bomb."

Russia, the Home of the Auto: The first "self-moving", four-seater carriage was built by an unnamed Russian serf "as early as 200 years ago", according to an anonymous talk heard on the Home Service on 7 June. It is also asserted that the first two-stroke internal combustion engine was constructed by a Russian scientist in 1879.

CONFIDENTIAL

Amid persistent boasts of production gains, two anxieties are apparent: the "temporary stagnation of trade," and a shortage of capable personnel loyal to the regime. In addition to State processing contracts, other methods being employed to revive trade are exchange conferences and loans to speculators who will purchase native products. Great success is claimed for the trade conferences, despite certain "unenlightened attitudes," such as a desire of trade delegations to sell but not buy, and the determination of peasants to obtain satisfactory prices for their goods. As for the so-called labor shortage, since armies of "unemployed" are being given relief work, obviously it is a shortage of capability. Perhaps one reason for the personnel problem is seen in the admission that "knowledge and experience" have been discarded as a basis for promotion.

Both the tendency to rely on the Soviet and the weakness of this dependence are apparent in a report that Fukien Province is now sending to Russia some of the goods formerly shipped to Hong Kong, but must depend on the domestic market to absorb "most of it." Direct Russian influence also is seen in connection with the Chinchiang flood control project. To boost morale there, Mao Tse-tung sent a personal gift, presented by the Minister of Conservancy himself, accompanied by the "Soviet adviser to the Ministry." A Russian adviser also appeared when dispatchers on the Chinese-Changchun Railway proved "conservative" and refused to adopt "new ways," which of course were Soviet methods.

In the Northeast, drought is feared, and in Kiangsi much land is idle, partly because farmers have been arrested, leaving their families with no labor and no money. Szechwan grain levies were cut 20 percent because of poor crops, while some Szechwan farmers went on strike because their production quotas were impossibly high. They knew they faced censure in any case.

Teachers are singled out as needing thought reform, as some possess the capitalistic attitude that allows them to "undergo thought reform without reforming their thoughts." Also disappointing is the slowness of the workers to grasp the significance of the demarcation separating them from the capitalist class, for only after they absorb this ideal can the dictatorship of the proletariat lead the national construction.